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## When the Railroad Payroll Gratters Are Lopped Off.

Mr. B. M. JEWELL, acting president of the railway employees department of the American Federation of Labor, is broken hearted over what will happen to the public when the railroads go back to private operation at the end of next week. Without the "colossal savings, economies and efficiency" which Mr. JEWELL's wild imagination has discovered under Federal operation he fears an increase in freight rates which of course would be passed along to the public.

The railway workers have been so tender of the public's pocket that they have slapped a round billion more of wages upon the payrolls. Director-General McAdoo took care of it and the rest of the increased costs under Government operation by shooting up traffic rates to such dizzy heights that the American people are now paying two billions of dollars a year more of transportation bills than they were paying only about three years ago.

The railway workers are still so tender of the public's pocket that they have been trying to bludgeon Director-General HINES into slapping somewhere between half a billion and a million dollars more upon the payrolls, to be taken care of with further traffic charges against the public.

And the worst of it—the economic monstrosity and the financial crime of it—is that neither the railroads nor the people have been getting returns for the increased wages paid to the railway workers and the increased transportation bills paid to the roads by the public to the tune of some two billions of dollars a year more. The men get more money; they do less work. The roads haul less freight; it costs them more to haul it.

Maybe it is true, as semi-official reports state, that no fewer than 300,000 railway wage earners now drawing good pay without their services being either needed or of any use to the carriers could be dispensed with and, when the roads go back to their owners, will be dispensed with. Maybe the number is not quite so multitudinous. Maybe there are no more than 275,000 of such slackers. Maybe there are only a quarter of a million.

But suppose the private management can lop off 250,000 useless men now carried on the railroad payrolls. And, because such men are not the day laborers but the labor union aristocrats, suppose the money they are now pulling down without earning it averages \$2,000 a year each. That would be for all of them put together half a billion dollars a year. Other things being equal, that amount of revenue saved from such waste to be come net income would make the railroads as a whole solvent again.

Put it another way. If from the present number of about 1,500,000 rank and file railroad workers were eliminated 300,000 that are not earning their salt—the whole number would thus be brought down to a working basis of 1,200,000, all delivering a square day's work for a square day's pay, the half billion of dollars saved by lopping off the payroll gratters could be made to provide for the 1,200,000 real workers a wage increase averaging \$383 a year throughout the whole force of 1,200,000 men.

What would Mr. JEWELL, who thinks he lies awake nights worrying his head off about the burdens of the public, say to a sound business proposition like that?

Mr. Marshall's Anchor to Windward.

No sooner had THOMAS H. MARSHALL, Vice-President of the United States, been informed of President Wilson's demand for the resignation of Secretary of State LANSING than he prepared and issued a statement in which he asserted that on no occasion in Mr. WILSON'S absences from this country or in the period of Mr. WILSON'S illness did he even constructively act in the stead of the President except on the President's direct and explicit request.

Can it be possible that the Vice-President of the United States, taking into account the present temper and frame of mind of the Chief Magistrate, feared that it might enter Mr. WILSON'S head to demand the resignation from office of the Vice-President on some fancied ground of usurpation?

Of course Mr. MARSHALL is aware that under the Constitution of the United States the President could not enforce compliance with such a demand on the Vice-President, but he may be in doubt, under existing circumstances, whether the President so construes the Constitution.

Sample Glen Plumb Economics.

Mr. GLEN E. PLUMB'S loosely blinged tongue blazes figures for which we demand his authority:

"Our problem in meeting the national debt is so to adjust our affairs that the 2 per cent. of the people owning 60 per cent. of the wealth shall pay their percentage of this indebtedness; that the 33 per cent. of the people owning 33 per cent. of the wealth shall pay the percentage due from them, and that the 65 per cent. of the people who own 5 per cent. of the wealth shall not be required to pay more than their proportionate amount of this indebtedness."

Nobody is ever going to be able, with or without the slap dash demand of Mr. GLEN E. PLUMB, to give the exact apportionment of wealth among our 110,000,000 population, or of gross income, or of net income by the classifications of the very rich or the moderately well to do, or the poor. But after the present census figures are in final form any census office clerk having to do with the tabulation of the summaries will be able to tell Mr. GLEN E. PLUMB that he doesn't know what he is talking about.

Sometimes income is the most accurate basis from which to figure wealth—true wealth—and sometimes it isn't. On that basis very low prices and very low wages will appear to shrink the national wealth. On the other hand, "immoderate prices and immoderate wages will grossly inflate the dollar marks expressing the national wealth. But as a general proposition the wealth which is not productive, the wealth from which a nation does not draw its income, the wealth out of which a people does not get its bread and butter, is not to be counted as something that can easily be cashed in by Government or anybody.

The wealth represented by marble palaces, art galleries, even public buildings and parks, though it may represent billions of dollars, is not directly productive of a single slice of bread and butter. The wealth represented in forts, navies and military equipment, while admirable insurance, although it takes billions of dollars, cannot produce an egg for breakfast. None of it can be liquidated in bulk.

The national income now is estimated at some fifty to sixty billions of dollars a year. If we take that income as the basis of our national wealth it is the American farmers and the American wage earners, receiving some forty to forty-five billions of that fifty to sixty billions of income, who seem to be getting some three-quarters of the benefits of what may be called our national wealth. Out of the rest comes the greater part of the money required to pay the bills of the national Government, of State governments and of local governments; and these foot up to billions of dollars. Also out of it must come chiefly the capital to expand old industries and businesses and to set up new industries and businesses, all of which will yield more national income to go in turn to the workers in those industries and businesses.

To go more into details: The farm products of this country last year were valued at some twenty-five billions of dollars. That would seem to be pretty nearly half the national income. It would seem, therefore, to represent a very good share of the productive wealth—the real wealth of the nation.

The twenty billions of dollars of interest, bonds and stocks in the American railway system are productive of gross earnings in the neighborhood of some five billions of dollars a year. Wages of some 2,000,000 railroad workers and other operating costs of the railroads now absorb all but four hundred or five hundred millions of that five billions of dollars of gross income yielded on twenty billions of dollars of invested wealth. Pretty much the same thing is true of general industries showing billions of dollars of gross income.

There are about one hundred and fifty billions of real estate figured as wealth in the United States. Outside of the farmer's return on such real property this is one of the most difficult forms of our wealth to figure in detail. But if it were confiscated by Mr. GLEN E. PLUMB, the Government or anybody else, who can think that, put on the block, it would realize, with no longer any market for it, one cent on the dollar?

body dream that any small fraction of the national debt could be cancelled out of the proceeds of such second hand furniture sales?

The American people still have, as they always have had, perhaps always will have, a great deal to do in the way of adjusting and readjusting their national affairs and their personal affairs. They are not going to do one little bit of that work on any Glen Plumb plan.

Where Not to Wear the Uniform.

A bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. New of Indiana permits service men to retain their uniforms, but is explicit in saying where the veteran may not wear his war clothes. One provision forbids him to don the uniform "while engaged in or participating on either side of a labor controversy, strike or industrial disturbance, whether as striker, labor leader, picket, strike breaker, guard, watchman, employer, representative of an employer, policeman, bailiff, sheriff, or other public officer."

The bill fails to say whether the veteran may wear his uniform when playing on the third side of a labor dispute in the part of General Public, Innocent Bystander, Easy Mark and Ultimate Goat.

A House for Our Palladium.

Even the cost, which would be a couple of millions, does not keep us from inclining toward Representative OSBORNE'S bill for a national historical museum, a repository where all the documents and relics owned by the Government and relating to the history of this country could be housed, safe from fire and riot.

The original Declaration and Constitution are, we believe, locked up in a part of the State Department, where they are not absolutely protected from fire. They ought to be put where neither flame nor burglar can reach them and yet where, at certain times, the public can view them.

When we say the public we mean to include even a President who might have forgotten all about these old documents.

Mistaken Economy Is Poor Business.

Failure of Congress to enact legislation providing adequate pay increase for officers and men of the service is crippling the American navy very seriously indeed.

To cripple the navy, which always must be the first line of national defense, is a proceeding on the part of our national legislators about as wise as would be the tearing up by merchants and property owners of their fire insurance policies and then driving all the experienced men out of the city's fire department.

SWATNEY'S army and in the following year he wiped out Colonel PLUNKETT'S force by breaking the famous British square. Before he was finally conquered he had caused the death of thousands of soldiers and natives and had devastated a wide area of Abyssinia and Somaliland.

His method of warfare was simplicity itself; his accoutrement was a great shock of hair, a string of holy beads, a crook and a white robe. With the backing of his own people he began his crusade; if his fanatical preaching and the howling of his derisives failed to win a tribe he killed off the objectors and annexed the remainder. He was twice reported dead from disease and once by assassination. He lived through it all to take advantage of the world war and the small Somaliland garrisons to arouse the natives to revolt.

The Mad Mullah had no plan of government except to get control himself. He was the Red of the desert, and Somaliland, being Somaliland and uncivilized, got rid of him by means of airplanes and tanks.

We Must Adopt a Broad and Comprehensive Aeronautic Policy.

It is useless to cry over waste and inefficiency in our airplane endeavors during the war. If there was extravagance, the men responsible for it may be exposed. If there was dishonesty, the dishonest men may be publicly denounced. If there were criminal acts, their authors may be punished. Beyond this we cannot go.

But for the future we may make adequate provision if we want, and we must make adequate provision if we are to escape humiliation, possibly defeat, in the next war.

Congress can and should adopt a policy under which aviation in all its branches shall be encouraged by the Government. This policy must make ample provision for the training of flying men and ground men. It must make ample provision for the improvement of airplanes. It must make ample provision for the encouragement of inventors. It must meet the necessity of maintaining private airplane factories fully manned by skilled workers, which in an emergency can produce the airplanes of all designs national defense will require. It must assign to dignitaries their proper place in the aeronautical programme and provide for them accordingly.

Congress is equal to the task of drawing and enacting a statute which shall cover the nation's aeronautical needs. The nation is able and ready to pay the bill.

The announcement that the Government is going to round up 173,911 men now carried on the records of the War Department as deserters under the selective draft act should cheer up the jokers who have been lonely since prohibition became a legal fact.

Food speculators are hard hit by foreign invasion—butter and cheese from Denmark cause them to lose expected profits—Newspaper headline.

An invasion which brings no tears to the eyes of the ultimate consumer.

Finds living cost up 92 per cent. since 1914—Newspaper headline.

ANOTHER Foe OF SUFFRAGE

Senator Wadsworth Reminded of the Course of Elton R. Brown.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: As an active worker for suffrage in this State I never expected to say a good word for ex-Senator Elton R. Brown, but I must admit he was a good fellow. He fought hard and we women did not always approve his methods, but when in spite of his prolonged opposition woman suffrage won he acknowledged defeat. He retired from public life; he did not come whining to his late opponents for their support. He did not ask those whom he considered unfit for the ballot to show their unfitness by voting for him. He did not wait his party with a candidate they could not elect. And Senator Wadsworth would do well to profit by his example.

NANCY COX VANDERLIP.  
(Mrs. Frank A. Vanderlip).  
SCARBOROUGH, February 18.

AGE WITH GRACE.

Advice to People Who Suddenly Find They Have Reached 50.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: The "old man" plaint of your correspondent, "G. R. P." is interesting because it is the plaint, or at least the feeling, of untold thousands who first hear the "old man" slight uttered in their regard.

"G. R. P." contends he is not morbid, but I beg to differ with him. He might hear himself called a horse or Indian; would that hurt him? It is the half truths that sting.

A man of 50 in good health and with some interests in life and some leisure—to write to the newspapers, for instance—is not and should not consider himself old, but the trouble is in most cases a too sensitive regard for outside opinion. This to men of action is water on a duck's back.

Allow me, as one who has been through the mill, to offer to "G. R. P." and all his sad ilk a word of advice which may help them.

First, I would tell them to read Gilbert Hamerton's "Human Intercourse" and "Quest of Happiness," which books teach them the art of growing old gracefully.

Next, such as have a little spare money and time should buy a small greenhouse and learn to run it themselves.

BLACKWELLS OF THE ISLAND

The Family Whose Historic Name Is Proposed to Be Discarded.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: You are right when you say editorially "Let Blackwells Island Alone."

The island has been called by its present name since about the middle of the seventeenth century. It was owned by the Blackwell family for nearly 200 years, and the name Blackwell is closely interwoven with the Colonial history of New York.

The Blackwells served with distinction in the Revolutionary war and in the war of 1812; were influential and worthy citizens at all times. I have always understood that George Washington was among distinguished guests who enjoyed the hospitality of the island and when it was the ancestral home of the Blackwell family.

A part of the old Blackwell homestead is still standing. The Blackwells cultivated the fertile acres of the island, and the name of Blackwell is entirely dissociated with the penal institutions that the city located on the island after it became the owner by right of purchase, and the name is in nowise connected with "infernal criminality," but, on the other hand, stands for the bucolic serenity of primitive days, notwithstanding what any one may say to the contrary.

We search the highways and byways to-day for landmarks of old New York and without avail. Where are they? We ask, and the dim, distant voice of the past answers "The Junk man has got them."

All that is left of the Colonial city of Washington Irving's name is mere name. Are they too to be denied us to please the whimsicality of some misguided official? Tradition and sentiment are fabrics of which patriotism is made, and ruthless is the hand that destroys them. "Hospital Park," "Glen Park" and "Nightingale Park" have no associational or historic value, but Blackwells Island is in itself an imperishable landmark and its name is innocent of those good old days of our ancestry that are hallowed by time and suggestive of romance.

Is nothing to be left of the past, not even names, for the enlightenment and imagination of future generations?

NORMAN HARBELL.  
NEW YORK, February 18.

ALL MUST COOPERATE.

Farmers Not Independent, but a Link in a Nationwide Organization.

LEAGUE ROW RENDS THE WOMEN VOTERS

Compulsory Military Training Also Causes Division in Chicago Convention.

OFFICERS ARE ELECTED

Delegates Add Four Names to Hall of Fame as Gathering Comes to End.

By a Staff Correspondent of THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Controversy over the League of Nations and compulsory military training rent the convention of the National League of Women Voters to-day. The Democratic women stood solidly for the adoption of the League of Nations resolution, while the Republicans asked that the clause providing for reservations be left intact. The qualification, however, was struck out and the resolution was adopted.

Mrs. George Bass, chairman of the women's bureau of the Democratic National Committee, expressed satisfaction over the action of the convention and declared that President Wilson would be pleased to find so many feminine supporters of his covenant.

Miss Mary Garrett Hay, chairman of the executive committee of the Republican National Committee, was equally delighted at the convention's attitude toward the covenant, though she herself is strongly in favor of reservations.

The Democratic women consider the action of the convention as their greatest triumph at the gathering which ended to-night after a week's session. Women who favor compulsory military training made an attempt, when the convention reconvened in the afternoon, to bring up for reconsideration the resolution adopted in the morning. They waxed emotional and at times emotional over words, but were overwhelmingly defeated by the larger representation which objects to enforced Government training.

Invasion of Mexico Opposed.

Opposition to armed invasion of Mexico brought forth cheers when this resolution was read. From this subject they progressed to the consideration of the 100,000 Christian Armenian women who are "held" in Turkish harems. A formal protest against this condition received unanimous approval.

The delegates voted to recommend that American women set aside Susan B. Anthony's birthday, February 15, as a day of thanksgiving all over the country, and they added these names to the Hall of Fame: Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Julia Ward Howe.

THE NEW YORK HERALD

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Pressure is now generally east of the Mississippi, especially in Atlantic coast districts, with three centers of minimum pressure off the coast of Virginia, a second over the Carolinas and a third over southeastern Pennsylvania. Obstructions of low pressure are located south of Lake Superior and in the Canadian North.

The precipitation of the last twenty-four hours has been uniformly light except over Florida and the Gulf States, where fairly heavy rains have fallen. The temperature is above the seasonal average in most of the North Atlantic States, but below it in the South Atlantic States.

Observations at United States Weather Bureau taken at 8 A. M. yesterday, are as follows:

Barometer at Sea Level, 30.15; Wind, 10; Humidity, 75; Clouds, 100; Precipitation, 0.00.

LOCAL WEATHER RECORDS

Barometer at Sea Level, 30.15; Wind, 10; Humidity, 75; Clouds, 100; Precipitation, 0.00.

Events to-day.